

Attack Sorties Over Indochina
May-Mid-June 1970

25 Jun 70 Ch/I/NV to Ch/D/I memo re The Number of Attack Sorties
Over Indochina, May - Mid-June 1970

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25 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Indochina Division

SUBJECT : The Number of Attack Sorties Over Indochina
May - Mid-June 1970US Tactical Attack Sorties

1. The number of US tactical attack sorties throughout Indochina totaled 22,498 during May, an increase of 2,575 from April, but an increase of only 1,675 sorties from the average monthly tactical attack sortie rate of the first four months of 1970. (See Table 1) The number of tactical attack sorties against Cambodia increased to 5,116 in May compared to a reported total of only 6 during the first four months of 1970. The increased attack sorties against Cambodia were largely offset by reduced attacks against all other areas in Indochina, but particularly by reduced attacks against Northern Laos.

2. The daily level of attack sorties against Indochina decreased substantially during the first half of June, amounting to only 55⁴ sorties per day compared to a daily average of 69⁴ during the first four months of 1970. The reduction of sorties during the first half of June occurred throughout Indochina but least severely in South Vietnam.

B-52 Attack Sorties

3. The number of B-52 attack sorties in May amounted to 1,442, an increase of only 34 from April and an increase of 42 from the monthly average during the first four months of 1970. (See Table 2) May was the first month of reported B-52 attacks against Cambodia and the 406 sorties against Cambodia were made at the expense of reduced sorties against Southern Laos and to a lesser extent against South Vietnam.

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4. During the first half of June the average daily number of B-52 attack sorties against Indochina declined only slightly from the May daily average. However, during this period the daily average of B-52 sorties flown against Cambodia and South Vietnam declined sharply while the daily average flown against Southern Laos almost doubled from the May daily average.

VNAF Attack Sorties

5. The number of VNAF attack sorties against Indochina amounted to 3,328 during May, a decrease of 347 from April. (See Table 3) The number of sorties flown against Cambodia increased to 1,689 in May from 238 in April. The VNAF does not send sorties over Laos and the increase in attack sorties against Cambodia in May were all made at the expense of reduced sorties flown against South Vietnam. During the first half of June the average daily number of VNAF sorties flown against Indochina amounted to 108, compared to a daily average of 107 in May. The average daily number of sorties flown against Cambodia declined compared to May, while the average flown against South Vietnam increased.

Acting Chief
North Vietnam Branch

Analyst:

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Table 1

US Tactical Attack Sorties in Indochina ^{a/}
January - Mid-June 1970

	<u>Northern Laos</u>	<u>Southern Laos</u>	<u>South Vietnam</u>	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>Total US</u>	<u>Daily Average for Indochina</u>
January	3,420	10,761	8,469	0	22,650	731
February	3,942	8,994	6,899	4	19,839	709
March	3,587	9,225	8,067	0	20,879	674
April	3,588	7,128	9,205	2	19,923	664
May	2,277	6,737	8,368	5,116	22,498	726
June 1 - 15	729	2,118	3,783	1,682	8,312	554

^{a/} The number of attack sorties in Indochina was compiled from Tables 313, 304 and 31A, published by the Directorate for Information Operations, Office of Secretary of Defense (OASD).

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Table 2

B-52 Attack Sorties in Indochina b/
January - Mid-June 1970

	<u>South Laos</u>	<u>South Vietnam</u>	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>
January	680	765	0	1,445	47
February	792	514	0	1,306	47
March	902	541	0	1,443	47
April	579	829	0	1,408	47
May	344	692	406	1,442	47
June 1 - 15	323	256	115	694	46

b/ The number of B-52 attack sorties in Indochina from January to May was compiled from Tables 312 and 313, published by the Directorate of Information Operations, Office of Secretary of Defense (OASD). June data was compiled from NMCC Operational Summary and is preliminary.

Table 3

VNAF Attack Sorties in Indochina c/
January - Mid-June 1970

	<u>South Vietnam</u>	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>
January	3,532	0	3,532	114
February	3,257	0	3,257	116
March	3,259	0	3,295	106
April	3,437	238	3,675	123
May	1,639	1,689	3,328	107
June 1 - 15	996	629	1,625	108

c/ The number of VNAF attack sorties in Indochina was compiled from Table 304, published by the Directorate of Information Operations, Office of Secretary of Defense (OASD).

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 25 JUNE 1970
TO: CHIEF, INDOCHINA DIVISION		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS: ATTACHED IS OUR ATTEMPT TO PUT THE CAMBODIAN AIR WAR INTO THE TOTAL INDOCHINA CONTEXT.		
FROM		
ROOM NO.		
FORM NO. 2 1 FEB 55 241		WHICH MAY BE USED.

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